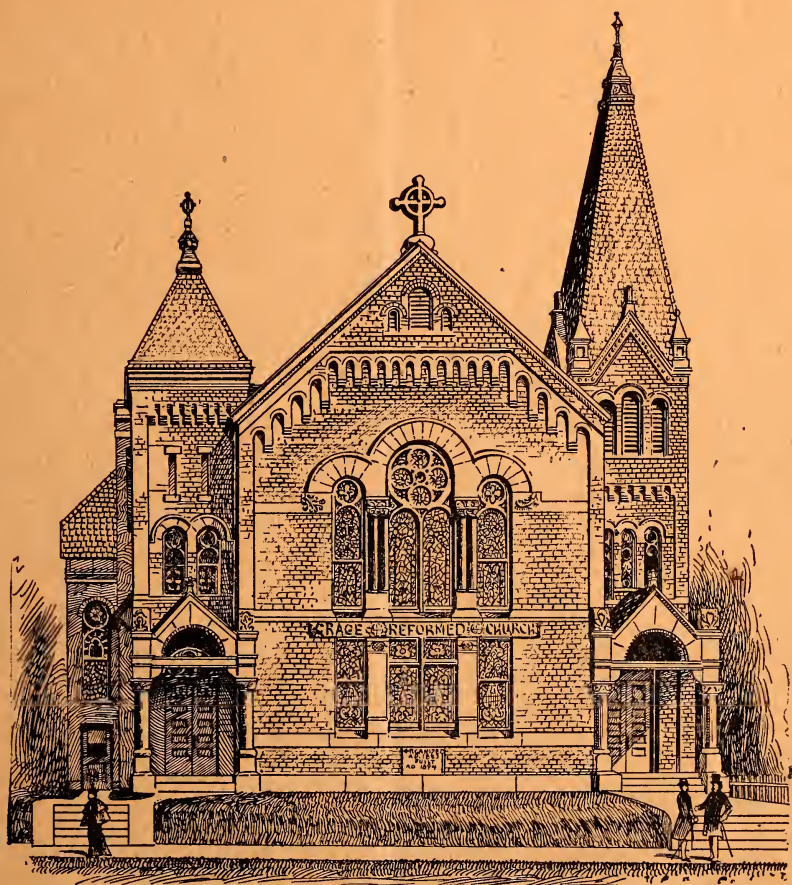


JANUARY, 1896.

Grace Church Visitor.



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SERVICES:

Bible School. 9:30 A. M.
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Y. P. S. C. E., 6:45 P. M.
Prayer Meeting, (Wednesday), . . 7:30 P. M.

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Grace Church Visitor.

*A Monthly Magazine Devoted to Christian Nurture and Fellowship,
Aggressive Church Work and Applied Christianity.*

VOL. VII.

JANUARY, 1895.

No. 10.

THE ETERNAL HOME.

(Sermon preached at the funeral of Myrtie Vining, at the Grace Reformed Church, Sabbath afternoon, Jan. 5th, and published in the VISITOR by request.)

Man goeth to his long home. *Ecc. 12-15.*

My friends, to-day, the first Sabbath of the New Year, this house of God is made the house of mourning. The Reaper, whose name is *Death*, has been in our midst, and has claimed for himself one of our fairest flowers.

Myrtie, the youngest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. James W. Vining, departed this life at an early hour on Thursday morning, January 2nd. For more than a year past her life has been hanging by a very slender thread. For months past we feared already, that the cold winds would blast our hopes. But the Lord was gracious, and He lengthened out her days of sojourn with the loved ones in the home to cheer their hearts, and to sweeten their lives by her affections, and by her innocence and purity of heart. She was the last of the children to come to the home of these friends, and she was the first to be transplanted into the elysian lowlands on high. In her were fulfilled the words of the Master when He said, "The last shall be first." She was the last to come, but she was the first to go to that other home, where life will have no shadows; no sadness; no suffering; no

heart-aches; no long farewells; no mourners' tears; no death. The word of God says: "There shall be no night there."

In the death of this daughter the parents have lost an affectionate child; the sisters a companion who has been to them a great comfort of heart. The life of this daughter was in many particulars altogether exceptional. A number of persons have spoken to me about her since her death, and they have only expressed my own feelings when they said, "she was not like other children." She was quiet, unpretentious, and harmless. Her life was like the unpretentious sunbeam that sparkles like a jewel in the cup of the lily. In my mother's garden among many other flowers, there was a rose we called the "Blush Rose." It was a delicate, timid little flower, but for beauty and fragrance it had not a peer in all the garden. Such was the life of this daughter, as we saw it, and as it unfolded itself in the mother's garden.

We all know that the most beautiful flowers are also the most delicate; the most sensitive to the touch of the cold winds. And so it seems too that the fairest flowers that grow in our homes are the first to wither and pass away. God loves them most and he takes them first. We must always remember that our treasures are God's treasures before they are ours. He has the first claim. And we are willing to give him all things, for He will give them

to us again. But only those who have had the experience can tell of the sadness and sorrow that comes to the heart when God claims for himself those who are so near to us. I have a very dear friend, who many years ago lost a little son. One day in his sorrow of heart he sat down and wrote this beautiful little poem, so expressive of his great bereavement. The poem is entitled "A Mysterious Providence," and these are his words:

"I saw an angel fly through heaven,
Who with divinest glory shone;
A spirit of the holy seven,
Who stand before the eternal throne;
And all the holy, shining throng
Stood silent as he flew along.

And then I saw him swiftly winging
Down from the shining world above,
And heard his sweet, melodious singing
Of Jesus and his dying love;
He paused a moment in his flight,
Just as he passed our home that night,

When he his flight to heaven pursued,
My eyes were dim; my heart was sore,
I only heard a precious duet,
Such as I never heard before.
But others who beheld the sight,
Said two had passed the port of light.

Our home is now so very dreary,
An empty bed, a vacant chair;
And I am sad, and lone, and weary,
For one is missing everywhere.
And satisfied I ne'er can be,
Until that angel comes for me."

This poem is the outbreathing of a deep-seated sorrow of heart, but it is also the outbreathing of a blessed hope of immortality, and final reunion. And, this friends, is our comfort to-day. There are vacant chairs in the home. Familiar faces are no more; dear ones have said their last farewell to us here. But thanks be unto God for our hope, and our blessed Gospel assurance. Death does not end all. There is a life beyond. The text says, "Man goeth to his long home." He goes out of the home here, but he only goes into another, a longer home. The flower is uprooted here, and some call that death. But

it is not death. It is only transplanting. God plucks up the flower by its roots, but only because he wants to transplant it into His garden above. The plucking is not death, it only means translation.

The dust shall return to the earth as it was, but the spirit shall return to God who gave it. "Man goeth to his long home." Here is immortality. Job asks the question, "If a man die shall he live again?" Solomon answers this inquiry of the soul, he says, "Man goeth to his long home." The desire and hope of immortality is innate in the breast of man. You cannot take this hope away from him.

Addison says:

"'Tis the Divinity that stirs within us,
'Tis heaven itself that points out an hereafter,
And intimates eternity to man."

Another says:

"Immortality o'ersweeps,
-All pains, all tears, all time, all fears—and peals
Like the eternal thunders of the deep
Into my ears this truth—Thou liv'st forever."

The word *immortality* is written upon every page of this blessed Book of God. It is the orb that shines, upon the first page, and sends its light like a shaft of sunshine all thorough this word, growing brighter and brighter, until we seem to stand in the perfect day and hope of immortality. The uprooting of the flower is not death. It is only transplanting. Our beautiful flowers that fade away here are blooming in the paradise of God, where the winter winds will never blast them, and the scorching sun will never smite them.

THE "HOME BEYOND."

The text tells of the "Home beyond."
"Man goeth to his long *Home*."

Our Lord tells us of the Father's house of many mansions. This is equivalent to the Father's home. There are some people who tell us they wish God had told us more in his Word about heaven. I fail to see for what more we might wish. It seems to me that all through this Book God is just talking to us about our home in heaven.

I doubt whether many of us can tell one-half of what this Book tells about the home over there. It is called a city, with streets of gold, with walls of amethyst, and sapphire, and jasper, and emerald, and with gates of pearl. I read this wonderful description of the beauty of that city, and then I see it all in a blaze, and in a sea of glory, and then I say that is enough.

And then this book tells me of the music of heaven. Harpers harping upon harps of gold, and the great chorousses, and ballelujahs, and the song of the angels rolling down the corridors of heaven like the sounds of many waters. And when I read all this, I say this is sufficient. My old grandfather a few hours before he passed away to those mansions in the skies, called my mother to his bedside and said to her: "Do you hear that music. Ah," said he "I never heard such singing." Oh yes, we have never heard such singing as we shall hear in that temple above. In our text the Word says heaven is a

HOME.

Well it seems to me that if in all this Book, only this one word *Home* was written, this would be sufficient. Home is everything to us. John Howard Payne said "there was no place like home." Never was there a grander truth uttered by man. But is there anything like Home? There are but few words in the whole vocabulary of human language that are sweeter to the heart than the word *Home*. Heaven is a home. Home means a resting place. A retreat from the busy and trying toils of the day. Heaven is a home, the place where the weary shall be at rest. "There remaineth therefore a rest to the people of God." God had spoken to the children of Israel while in Egypt in their bondage and oppression, and he promised them a land where they should find rest. Forty years they traveled in the wilderness. They looked forward with great delight when their journey should be completed, and

they should come to the Promised Land of Rest. Man goeth to his long home. This means rest. Rest from toils, from suffering, from conflicts, from anxieties, from sickness, from pain.

HOME MEANS ASSOCIATION.

It means fellowship. It means kinship and friendship.

Ah yes, what is home without these. God knows how to prepare for us, and he knows what words to put into this Book to make our hearts ache for heaven. The word heaven has not much meaning in it for us, but the word home lays hold of our hearts. The word home means father to us. It means Mother to us. It means son and daughter, brother and sister. Some of you would travel long distances to go back to your old home as it once was. Some one started the question some years ago, "what is home without a mother?" Well it would not be home at all. So home means father, mother, and loved ones,—and it means fellowship. It means home circle. Heaven means home as we had it here. Now what more do we want to know about heaven? Jesus said to his disciples, "In my Father's house are many mansions, I go to prepare a place for you." This is what he tells us. There is a Father's home on the other side, and I go to prepare a place for you. And this is just what Jesus is doing to-day, preparing a home for us. Man goeth unto his long home. One by one the home circles are being formed up there in that home. First it may be a father, then a mother, then a son or a daughter. And then soon another one, and then another. Soon we have more friends and kindred in heaven than we have on earth. And it will only be a little while and we shall all be there in that home on high.

ETERNAL HOME.

The home beyond is called a long home. It is a sad thought that those who say farewell to us here will never come back to us again in this life. The chair once vacant

will always remain a vacant chair. A mother not long ago showed me a pair of little white shoes; she said, "these are the baby's shoes," and then the tears came to her eyes, and I knew what it all meant. And I said to her "how long is it since the baby is gone?" "Oh," she said, "many years, and the baby never came back again." No, they never come back. But we can go to them, and in that home there will be no parting, no death. It is our immortal home. There friends meet to part no more. It is the long home.

"O blessed world, immortal bowers!

Where life knows no decay:

There bloom our transplanted flowers.

In God's eternal day."

And friends, it is not far to that house.

It is only a journey of a few days more.

" 'Tis only a little way on to my home,

And there in its sunshine forever I'll roam;

While all the day long I journey with song,

O beautiful Eden-land, thou art my home.

'Tis only a little way further to go,

O'er mountain and valley where dark waters flow;

My Saviour is near, with blessings to cheer,

His word is my guiding-star, why should I fear.

'Tis only a little way, there I shall see,

The friends that in glory are waiting for me;

Their voices from home now float on the air,

They are calling me tenderly, calling me there."

The departed daughter leaves to mourn her death the father and mother and two sisters. At the close of the services at the church the body was quietly laid away to rest in the Lindenwood Cemetery, where it will sleep until the resurrection morn. Weep not, beloved, she has but gone home. "In some bright day by and by" your treasure will be given back to you again; it will be in the day of our Eternal Home.

MRS. SAMUEL DUKEMAN was called to Hicksville, Ohio, recently on account of injuries which her mother had received from a fall. Her mother is recovering and Mrs. Dukeman returned home a few days ago.

DEPARTED—MRS. HARRISON HENSINGER.

Monday, January 6, the pastor was called to the Salem Reformed Church, twelve miles north of the city, to officiate at the funeral of Mrs. Harrison Hensinger. She departed this life on Friday, January 3, after an illness of only a few days. She was aged 63 years, 11 months and 22 days. She was the daughter of Michael and Saloma Kistler, and was born in Schuylkill County, Pennsylvania. At a very early period in her life the family removed from the east and located in Seneca County, Ohio. April 2, 1850, she was united in marriage to Harrison Hensinger, and four years later with her husband came to Allen county, Ind., locating near the Salem Reformed Church, where she resided at the time of her death. She was baptized in infancy, and at an early age she made a public profession of faith on the Lord Jesus Christ. During all of her life she proved faithful to her Master and the church and when health permitted she was always in her place at the church services and found it her chief delight of heart to be about the Lord's work. For many years past she was afflicted with asthma, but she was patient and cheerful in all her suffering, and fully resigned to the Lord, and gave full proof before her death of her preparation for the change which was about to take place. She leaves to mourn her death her husband, two sons and four daughters, two brothers and two sisters. Mrs. Samuel Fredrick, of the Grace Church, is a daughter of Mrs. Hensinger.

The funeral services were attended by a very large number of friends and neighbors of the community in which the deceased lived. The text which she had selected for her funeral were the words of the Apostle in his Second Epistle to Timothy, 4:7, "I have finished my course."

May the Lord comfort the bereaved and sorrowing family and friends.

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THE pastor's catechetical class meets every Sabbath at 2:30 p. m. Every person is invited to join the class.

THE Women's Society has its monthly meeting Thursday afternoon, Feb. 6, at 2:30. There should be a full attendance at this meetings.

CHESTER DRIFTMEYER has been quite ill again, but we are glad to see him convalescing so rapidly, and we hope that he may soon be at the Sabbath School again.

THURSDAY evening, Jan. 16th, Mrs. F. D Paulus entertained the Missionary Society at tea. From what we learn from every person present it was a very enjoyable occasion.

FRANKIE FRY has been absent from Sabbath school and church for two or three weeks, on account of illness. The pastor called to see her a few days ago, and found her improving.

MRS. GEO. SOLIDAY returned home from Ohio the 1st of January. She had been called to her father's home on account of the death of her mother, which occurred the first week in December. Mrs. Soliday and the whole family have our sympathy and prayers in their sudden and sorrowful bereavement.

Beginning with Sabbath evening, January 26th, the pastor will preach a series of sermons, illustrated with large Bible paintings. Subject:

Glimpses of Eternity.

Jan. 26, 7:30 p. m.—A
Look Into God's Account
Book.

Paintings. Distribution of talents.

Uses of the same.

The open books, and rewards.

Feb. 2, 7:30 p. m.—Contrasts Between Time and Eternity.

Paintings. Contrasts of "the life that now is."

Emblems of "the life that now is."

Emblems of "that which is to come."

Feb. 9, 7:30 p. m.—Links Between Time and Eternity.

Paintings. The Christian's life linked with eternity.

The sinner's life linked with eternity.

The step from time into eternity.

Feb. 16, 7:30 p. m.—Separations in Eternity.

Paintings. Dividing "his sheep from goats."

Separating the tares from the wheat.

Separating the wicked from the just.

The paintings we have for these sermons are in excellent condition, and cannot help but make lasting impressions upon the heart.

The members of the church should take special pains to invite their friends, who have no church homes, and those who are unconverted, to these services.

HEIDELBERG CATECHISM.

FIFTH LORD'S DAY.

Question 12.—Since then, by the righteous judgment of God, we deserve temporal and eternal punishment, what is required that we may escape this punishment and be again received into favor?

Answer.—God wills that His justice be satisfied, therefore must we make full satisfaction to the same, either by ourselves or by another.

Question 13.—Can we ourselves make this satisfaction?

Answer.—By no means: on the contrary, we daily increase our guilt.

Question 14.—Can any mere creature make satisfaction for us?

Answer.—None: for first, God will not punish, in any other creature, that of which man has made himself guilty; and further, no mere creature can sustain the burden of God's eternal wrath against sin, and redeem others therefrom.

Question 15.—What manner of mediator and redeemer then must we seek?

Answer.—One who is a true and sinless man, and yet more powerful than all creatures, that is, one who is at the same time true God.

SIXTH LORD'S DAY.

Question 16.—Why must he be a true and sinless man?

Answer.—Because the justice of God requires, that the same human nature, which has sinned should make satisfaction for sin; but no man, being himself a sinner, could satisfy for others.

Question 17.—Why must he be at the same time true God?

Answer.—That by the power of his God-head he might bear, in his manhood, the burden of God's wrath, and so obtain for and restore to us righteousness and life.

Question 18.—But who now is that Mediator, who is at the same time the true God and a true, sinless Man?

Answer.—Our Lord Jesus Christ, who is freely given unto us for complete redemption and righteousness.

Question 19.—Whence knowest thou this?

Answer.—From the Holy Gospel: which God Himself first revealed in Paradise; afterwards proclaimed by the holy Patriarchs and Prophets, and foreshadowed by the sacrifices and other ceremonies of the law; and finally fulfilled by his well beloved Son.

CURRENT EXPENSES.

The pastor is frequently asked by the new members of the church, what plan we have for raising the money to meet the current expenses of the church. We have adopted the system of weekly payments. The Financial Secretary, C. H. Gumpfer, will supply all who may wish them, with subscription cards. On these you will indicate the amount you can pay each week. Fill out the cards and return them to the Secretary, or place them in the basket on Sabbath, and the Secretary will receive them in this way. You will find envelopes for your weekly offerings in the pews. Take a supply of them with you to your homes. Enclose your offerings and place your name on the back of the envelope.

At the end of each quarter the Secretary furnishes statements to the members of their accounts with the church.

Every member of the church who can should pay something toward the current expenses and should esteem it a great pleasure to do so.

JOHN SCHNEIDER, 136 Cass street, has been confined to the house for nearly a month with a sore eye. He is now recovering very rapidly and may soon be able to go on the road again.

Sabbath School.

SABBATH SCHOOL RECORD FOR DECEMBER.

Dec. 1, attendance, 159.	Collection	\$3.79
" 8 " 159	"	4.22
" 15 " 171	"	4.01
" 22 " 165	"	5.59
" 29 " 138	"	4.18
Christmas collection, - - - -		71.73
Total for the month, - - - -		\$93.52

ACCESSIONS TO THE CHURCH.

Dec. 15, Ella Kley.

Jan. 5, Mr. and Mrs. James Smith, Mr. and Mrs. George Smith.

Jan. 12, Mrs. Mary Caylor, Mrs. Mary J. Lewis, Bergie Lewis.

We extend a cordial welcome to these friends, praying that they may find a pleasant church home among us.

At the annual meeting of the Ladies' Society the following officers were elected: President, Mrs. C. H. Gumper; vice president, Mrs. Geo. Hesser; secretary, Mrs. A. K. Zartman; treasurer, Mrs. F. D. Paulus.

The Sabbath school is still gaining in numbers. There are new accessions every Sabbath. We predict that very soon our rooms will be too small for the school, but we are ready to meet the emergency. Just bring on the scholars.

The following persons were recently received into the young people's society as active members: Mr. and Mrs. Braithwait, Mr. Jas. Lonergan, Mr. Fredericks, Misses Clara Perry, Lillie Bittencoffer, Grace Lonergan, Venitia Lonergan, Jennie Hively, Jessie Wirts, Berky Lewis, Bertha Goba, Bessie Tapp, Hattie Filley, Ernest Close. As associate members, Lily Close, Stella Heymann, Wanda Heyman, Charles Long.

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VI. THE NORMAL DEPARTMENT,
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Weekly Prayer Meeting Sabbath Evening at 6:45.

PRAYER MEETING TOPICS.

Feb. 2.—Laborers together with God.
I Cor. 3:6-23. (Christian Endeavor Day.)
Mrs. Mable Clayton.

Feb. 9.—Christ's warnings. Matt 7:21-27.
(A memory meeting suggested.) James
Lonergan.

Feb. 16.—Loyalty to our church. Ps.
84:1-12. (A review of the history of your
own denomination suggested, to be led by
your pastor.) A. K. Zartman.

Feb. 23.—What faith can do for us. Heb.
11:1-10; 12:1-2. Lizzie Rudisill.

ON January 12 the annual business meet-
ing of the Young People's Society of
Christian Endeavor was held. Officers
were elected for the ensuing year: Pres-
ident, Mr. L. W. Hills; vice president, Rev.
A. K. Zartman; secretary, Josie Zartman;
treasurer, Will Rudisill.

THE following committees have been ap-
pointed for the ensuing year: Prayer
meeting committee, Rev. A. K. Zartman,
Mr. L. W. Hills, Mrs. Clayton. Lookout
committee, Misses Lily Walters, Jennie
Hively, Lizzie Rudisill, Messrs Charles
Knight, Will Rudisill. Social committee,
Misses Nellie B. French, Emma Schwartz,
Josie Zartman, Mary Rudisill, Tena Wel-
den, Frank Hills. Visitation committee,
Misses Daisey Walters, Clara Perry,
Maud Traxler, Mrs. Lonergan. Ushers,
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FRUIT HOUSE PRICES.

—TEA.—

Little change since last report. The Chinese and Japanese
war has kept the market stiff, however no advance in price. As
the market is an extensive one that, notwithstanding the war,
free shipments are arriving from both China and Japan. Teas
at these prices are much more economical than Coffee. A 20c
Tea will go twice as far as a 20c pound of Coffee. Our Tea trade
has grown to large proportions. We continue to sell at low
prices. We purchase direct from the importers and sell direct
to our customers, in this way saving to our customers the profits
of the jobber and wholesale merchant which are at least 10 to 15c
per pound each. This our customers receive the benefit of
hence the explanation of our ability to sell so cheap.

Young Hyson, extra good, 20c.

Imperial, extra choice, 30c; best 50c.

Gunpowder, extra, 30c; best 50c.

Uncolored Japan, 20c, 30c; best 50c.

English Breakfast, 30c; best 50c.

Oolong, extra Black Tea, 30c; best 50c.

Tea Dust, 15c per lb.

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